

Message Text

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SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE ORPHANS: REQUEST FOR MEDIA SUPPORT

1. VIETNAM SITUATION MAJOR STORY WITH ORPHANS GETTING TOP BILLING FOR OBVIOUS HUMANITARIAN EMOTIONAL AND PERHAPS EVEN INTERNAL PROPAGANDA REASONS. CHILEAN MEDIA FULL OF COMMERCIAL WIRE- PHOTOS AND SATELLITE TV IMAGES . "LA TERCERA", LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER, BEGAN CAMPAIGN SATURDAY FOR CHILEANS TO ADOPT ORPHANS. CAMPAIGN SNOWBALLING RAPIDLY. MONDAY, TELEPHONE OPERATOR AT DIEGO PORTALES BUILDING, SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, CALLED USIS PRESS SECTION SAYING THEY WERE FLOODED WITH CALLS, COULD THEY REFER CALLS TO USIS. WE HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS PRESS QUERIES AS TO HOW CHILEANS CAN ADOPT VIETNAMESE ORPHANS.

2. PICTURE DEVELOPING HERE, AND WE ASSUME FROM EXPERIENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES, IS THAT OF THOUSANDS OF ORPHANS BEING ROUNDED-UP BY U.S. OFFICIALS IN VIETNAM, PACKED INTO USAF PLANES AND FLOWN TO U.S. TO BE PLACED IN CENTERS WHERE AMERICANS CAN COME AND CHOOSE ORPHANS AND THAT WHOLLY USG OPERATION WITHOUT GVN CONCERN: ONE WANTS TO ADOPT VIETNAMESE ORPHAN, USG CAN ARRANGE. WE WANT TO COUNTERACT THESE FALSE AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS IMPRESSIONS.

3. IF OUR ASSUMPTION IS CORRECT WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT ORPHANS

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NOW ARRIVING IN U.S. WERE IN PIPELINE FOR SOME TIME AND THAT

ARRANGEMENTS ARE BETWEEN AMERICAN FAMILIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE CONTACTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. WE NEED EXPLAIN THAT FINAL DECISION RESTS WITH GVN WITH THEIR REGULATIONS PREVAILING; REQUIREMENTS OF LEGITIMATE ORGANIZATIONS IN U.S. TO INSURE THAT FAMILIES WANTING TO ADOPT VIETNAMESE ORPHANS ARE QUALIFIED BOTH FAMILY-WISE AND UNDER U.S. ADOPTION LAWS; WHAT HAPPENS TO ORPHANS WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN U.S.; NORMAL LENGTH OF TIME IT TAKES TO ADOPT ORPHAN; WHY AIRLIFT WAS ACCELERATED DUE CIRCUMSTANCES AND HOW THIS AFFECTED NORMAL PROCEDURES, IF ANY; EXTENT OTHER COUNTRIES' PARTICIPATION; NUMBER OF ORPHANS ARRIVED DURING PAST TWO WEEKS, AND APPROXIMATE TOTAL EXPECTED; SHORT ACCOUNTING OF VIETNAMESE ORPHANS WHO ARRIVED IN U.S. AND HOW AND WHY PRIOR TO EMERGENCY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED ASAP:

IPS: BACKGROUND STORY INCORPORATING SUGGESTIONS IN POINT 3 ABOVE, PLUS OTHER MATERIALS SUPPORTING OUR SUGGESTIONS. NEWS ANALYSIS ON OVERALL PROBLEM. PHOTOS (BOTH B/W AND COLOR TRANSPARENCIES) OF ORPHANS BEING TURNED OVER TO FAMILIES, ETC.

VOA: BACKGROUNDER AS MENTIONED ABOVE. WOULD PROBABLY NEED MORE THAN ONE TO COVER OUR SUGGESTIONS. COMMENTARY ON WHOLE PROBLEM OF ORPHANS. PARTICULARLY NEED IN FORM IBS/LA CORRESPONDENT REPORTS.

IMV: FILM CLIPS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE SHOWING ORPHANS AND AMERICAN FAMILIES. ANY OFF-LINE MATERIAL SUPPORTING POINT 3.

5. STORY OF VIETNAMESE ORPHANS MAY NOT BE SHORT LIVED. COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA COUNTERBLASTS ALREADY HAVE STARTED. THEREFORE, HOPE AGENCY MEDIA WILL CONTINUE FOLLOW-UP INTER-VIEWS WITH AMERICAN ADOPTION AGENCIES, APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS, CONCERNED PRIVATE, BUT PROMINENT PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS.
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